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# Near East/North Africa Report

No. 2651



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1 November 1982

## NEAR EAST/NORTH AFRICA REPORT

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PALESTINE BROADCAST HITS 'TOOLS' OF ISRAEL, U.S.

JN132030 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1715 GMT 13 Oct 82

[Palestine broadcast: Abu Salim's Talk]

[Text] All persons, whoever they may be, who believe that they can destroy, stop or restrain the struggle and sacrifices of our people through a humiliating surrender are mistaken. All those who believe that the Palestinians may surrender to the Americans and the Zionist or relinquish their inalienable national rights in every single part of their homeland and soil are definitely wrong. All those who think that the Palestinians may disavow or ignore the blood and requests of the martyrs who fell while defending the land of Palestine are certainly dreaming. The march of history continues and no events or incidents remain as they are, ever.

We say all this because we can see the acute state of affairs in the Arab arena. We realize that there is a U.S.-Zionist onslaught launched against us to completely control the Arab region. We understand that there are two methods to fulfill the objectives of this onslaught, either through aggression and the enemy's military capabilities or through the achievement of an unconditional Arab surrender.

In addition to the fact that there is no united Arab front to face this onslaught, we notice that the thrust and burdens of facing the onslaught rest on our shoulders and on those of some of our brothers who are aware of the threat in this onslaught and who are ready to adhere to their pan-Arab responsibilities. At the same time we can see that some Arabs are backing this onslaught and are trying to facilitate its mission. We can see that some Arabs are continuously working to help the Americans and the Zionist to achieve a complete Arab surrender and, consequently, rearrange Arab conditions in a manner that serves U.S. interests. In other words, the demand is that the Arabs must surrender and the entire region must be placed under the control of the U.S. and the Zionist leadership.

Since the only thing that hinders the implementation of this design is the continued Arab-Zionist conflict; namely, the failure to achieve a solution to the Palestinian issue, the onslaught concentrates on us, the Palestinians. They want either to eliminate us or to compel us to surrender and forget our rights and land. They want us, the legitimate owners of

Palestine, to sign a document of concession which would recognize the Zionist entity's legitimacy in our land and in the Arab region.

What we want to say here is that many official Arab stands do not represent either the will or the opinion of the Arab people. Examples of this are the stands of the Egyptian, Sudanese and other Arab regimes. If such regimes agree to serve as tools in the hands of others to work against the opinion and interests of the Arab peoples and to help in imposing U.S. and Zionist hegemony on these peoples, we will never agree to ignore this long struggle to betray the blood and requests of the martyrs by surrendering to the enemy. We can never agree to betray the future of our people or recognize the Zionist entity's legitimacy in this Arab region.

We realize that this stand of ours will bring us more pain and cause us to offer more sacrifices. Although the Zionists and the Americans say that there are some persons who would recognize them, they realize that such persons do not represent the Arab peoples' will and opinions. They should also realize that the Arabs despise the stands of such persons.

Hence, our enemies and their partners tend to increase their pressures and escalate their onslaught on us, but we will continue to believe strongly in our rights and will continue to defend them because we trust that our Arab people know that the future of our Arab generations depends on our decision. The continuity of the struggle against hostile forces will offer the Arab people the necessary moral and material support as well as enough time to change this state of affairs.

Those wagering on a possible Palestinian surrender or an imminent split in the Palestinian people's ranks, will and opinion must be dreaming because the Palestinian people's opinion represents that of the entire Arab people.

CSO: 4400/28

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

ALGIERS VOP CRITICIZES AL-JUMAYYIL, LEBANESE ARMY

LD142328 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Oct 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Brothers, good evening to you. Today we want to speak once more about the evil acts perpetrated by the cowardly and vile individuals of the Victor Khuri Zionist Isolationist Army, the army falsely called the army of Lebanon. Lebanon and the population of Lebanon actually wash their hands of this army and of those who have formed it, armed it and organized it. They have also washed their hands of its disgraceful acts.

What makes me repeat what I have already said about this army is the fact that its deeds and horrible acts have gone far beyond all limits. For more than a week this army has had a free hand in West Beirut and its western suburbs, trespassing on homes by day and night, searching and destroying homes. There are thefts, plunders, arrests and torture of Palestinians and Lebanese. Moreover, their acts have involved even publishing houses; they have surrounded them, penetrated them, destroyed them, burned them down.

Our Palestinian and Lebanese people have been patient, saying: These people will perhaps be ashamed of themselves; perhaps this government and this new President Amin Al-Jumayyil will do something and stop it. Perhaps he will preserve the freedom of people and their dignity, and what they call democracy in their country; perhaps he will meet some of his commitments and pledges to this Palestinian people, who listened to his words at the beginning and trusted him when he said he would be the president of all Lebanon and that he would protect the people and all their rights--all the Lebanese people.

But his acts have shown that everything he said was a pack of lies, that he is the president of one section, one section of this people, not all the Lebanese people, and that his army is sectarian and racist. It is an army at the service not of Lebanon and the people of Lebanon, but of just one section. It is an army hand in hand with the enemies of Lebanon and of the people of Lebanon, the enemies of all the Arabs. This army is hand in hand with the zionists and the Americans.

This army did not go into East Beirut. Naturally, it is not supposed to go there, because its masters are there. Those who control it, its isolationist masters, the phalangists to whom President Amin Al-Jumayyil belongs are in East Beirut. Their masters the zionists are also there, and for this reason they cannot go into East Beirut. Even if the phalangists allowed them to enter, they would not be able to do anything because the phalangists are the ones who control the army.

CSO: 4400/28

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

KUWAITI PAPER DEFENDS 'ARAFAT, JORDAN-PLO TIES

GF121237 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 12 Oct 82 p 1

[Editorial: "It Is In No One's Interest to Cast Doubts on 'Arafat's Leadership"]

[Text] The talks between King Husayn and 'Arafat in Amman are among the most important developments in the region ever since the events that took place in Beirut and resulted in the departure of the Palestinian resistance from Lebanon. The present stage is critical and sensitive. It is a stage of "changing states." The realization of the dream of the Palestinian revolution to establish a state in Palestine depends to a great extent on what positive results the Jordanian and Palestinian leaders achieve and on the understanding they reach on the details of future plans.

The entire Middle East question is now passing through a stage of lobbying. What is now happening in international and Arab lobbies will shape the outlines of the future. There is now more than ever before a pressing need to discard peripheral differences, particularly following the birth of Arab detente at the recent Fes summit. The importance of what was agreed upon at the Fes summit is that it has brought about an Arab agreement on the broad lines of the future of the region and the Arab-Israeli conflict. However, peripheral differences which arise among some Arab parties are due to the failure to reach an agreement on the details.

It is in the higher Arab interest that all forces and parties support the Jordanian-Palestinian talks that are being currently held by Husayn and 'Arafat. It is in no one's interest to cast doubts on Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir Arafat's] leadership of the PLO--a leadership that has been born and bred within the revolution's fold, and has been consolidated through various forms of political, military and diplomatic struggle throughout the world.

The Lebanese crisis was the epidemic that spread throughout the Middle East. Ending Lebanon's crisis will heal all the pains suffered in the region, foremost among which are the pains suffered by the Palestinian people and by the Arab peoples which are still suffering from Zionist aggression, both direct and indirect.

CSO: 4400/28

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PLO'S AL-SARTAWI URGES RECOGNITION BY UK

NC071730 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 7 Oct 82

[Excerpts] London, 7 Oct (MENA)--Dr 'Isam Al-Sartawi, an aide of the PLO chairman for foreign affairs, today urged the British government to embark on talks, in any form it deems appropriate for itself, with the Palestinian people's official representative, the PLO, with a view to recognizing the PLO.

Al-Sartawi said that this matter is not regarded as a [words indistinct] particular burden for the British government and for the PLO leadership. He said: At this point, I am ready to emphasize that the PLO leadership stands prepared to shoulder all the burdens that such recognition would entail.

Dr Al-Sartawi today addressed a meeting held simultaneously by conservative party youths with the ruling party's annual conference in Brighton. He said: We appeal to the West and to its three major governments--the United States, Britain and France, the leaders of the [Western] alliance--to help in restoring peace in the Middle East area, in endorsing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and in recognizing the PLO.

He explained that so long as Israel senses that the West refuses to recognize the PLO and to accede to the Palestinian people's demands of a state and of national rights, the Israeli leadership will have the green light to proceed with crushing the PLO.

Dr Al-Sartawi emphasized that following the Beirut massacre, it is time for the West to recognize the PLO and the sufferings of the Palestinian people and to seek to achieve progress toward peace in the Middle East. He said that an objective of the war unleashed in Lebanon was the crushing of the PLO. However, this objective failed because the PLO is more active than in the past.

The next speaker was Muhammad Mulhim, the Hebron mayor deposed by Israel. Mulhim noted the bestial actions perpetrated by the Israeli forces in Beirut. He demanded a halt to the genocide being practiced against the Palestinians, an end to the bloodletting in the area and the fulfillment of the Palestinian people's legitimate aspirations to return to their homeland and set up an independent state.

CSO: 4400/28

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

PALESTINE BROADCAST WARNS OF U.S., URGES STRUGGLE

JN121202 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 11 Oct 82

[Palestine broadcast: Unattributed talk]

[Text] Our Palestinian Arab people have a long memory. They do not forget anything. How can they forget when they have suffered so much? Every little incident is engraved in their memory. For instance, our people can tell the difference between a true and a false brother. They can also tell the difference between those comrades in arms who share their sufferings and those who take every opportunity to stab them in the back.

Our people have suffered all types of stabs in the back--butchering, massacring, uprooting, enslaving, disarming and gaging. There are also the stabs in the back which took the form of taming so as to subjugate our people to the will of the enemies and to make them surrender to plans aimed at liquidating their cause.

There are those who have alternately used and are still using all these forms of plotting against our people. These days they are talking about positive points in the Reagan initiative which butchered our people en masse in Sabra, Shatila, 'Ayn Al-Hulwah and Ar-Rashidiyah. They want us under their wing so as to start a dialogue with Reagan, believing that our revolution had finished with the departure of its fighters from Beirut. They are talking as if Beirut were our first and last stronghold whose loss meant that the revolution had lost the ground it was standing on and should, therefore, sign the deed of its enslavement, first to the false brother and then to the usurper and criminal enemy.

We ask: Why should we sign such a deed, so one of us would be crowned amir or appointed minister? To hell with all royal and high posts if the price is abandoning one single inch of the sacred Palestinian soil or failing to avenge for every single drop of the pure and innocent blood which was spilled by the butchers and murderous aggressors in their attempt to suppress our people's willpower for liberation and salvation.

We are not after a state, but a homeland; namely, Palestine. We are also not after formalities. All we want are open borders so we can cross to

that homeland to continue the resistance. The true brother is the one who offers us this service. As for the one who withholds such a service he is not only a false brother, but also a dire enemy.

This is the basic rule which must govern our independent Palestinian national decision. This rule does not lead to where Mr Ronald Reagan squats over a heap of Palestinian, Lebanese, Syrian and other revolutionary, nationalist and progressive skulls which you do not know, as only God knows them, but to where the Palestinian fighter continues to use his arms against his zionist enemy until God carries out his will.

CSO: 4400/28

PALESTINIAN SOURCE ON REGROUPING FIGHTERS

GF091536 Jidda AL-MADINAH in Arabic 5 Oct 82 p 1

[Dispatch by correspondent 'Abd Al-Bari 'Atwan]

[Text] London--A Palestinian official source told AL-MADINAH yesterday that the [Palestinian] resistance is currently preoccupied with solving the geographic situation of the Palestinian resistance following the withdrawal from Beirut in addition to being preoccupied with reorganizing its internal structure and ensuring efficient military progress.

This source--which has just returned from Tunisia after taking part in the intensive meetings which were held by the PLO leadership to study the current Palestinian situations--noted that it was agreed during these meetings that attention be focused foremost on regrouping the forces of the [Palestinian] resistance, which are scattered in many Arab countries, in one geographic area along the confrontation lines with the [Israeli] enemy, particularly in Jordan and Syria. The same source pointed out that the state of dispersion which followed the Palestinian departure from Beirut created a lot of problems and complications besides placing the Palestinian forces in places where they should not be. In Yemen, for instance, the Palestinian forces face repeated attacks by monkeys and have to fight daily battles to defend themselves. [sentence as published] The source bitterly commented on this by saying that the role of the Palestinian resistance is to confront Israel and not the monkeys in Yemen, nor idleness in Tunisia nor plots in other parts. The source stressed that the Palestinian resistance leadership realizes that the regrouping of the Palestinian forces is not an easy matter due to the current Arab and international circumstances, but the continuation of dispersion in areas that are far from the confrontation [lines] with the enemy is a matter that must not last long. The source indicated that there are intensive contacts with Amman and Damascus in the regard.

CSO: 4400/28

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

COMMENTARY ON PHILIP HABIB

LD081810 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 7 Oct 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Brothers, good evening! These days I can smell something cooking, and it appears this meal is rich. I do not know whether you can smell it or not; I am sure you can smell it and you can see that this American cook is wearing his working uniform and has rolled up his sleeves. In his old age this cook has become an American, but when he was small he was a Lebanese Arab. This meal is not just American. No. It is American-Arab so that it will be palatable to all tastes and all people can eat with appetite. Have you guessed who this cook is? He is not new to you, neither him nor his cooking. To those who do not know him I shall point him out. This cook, my brothers, is Philip, Habib [sweetheart] of Israel and the agents.

The odd thing, brothers, is that everyone knows him and is aware of his actions. Nevertheless, they still receive him and listen to his words. Moreover, many in the Arab countries await a happy ending at his hands, the hands of Philip. I can't understand it. Are they really ignorant and foolish, or are they pretending to be ignorant and foolish? They put their hands in his hand and they do not see the blood pouring from it. They cannot see the hands stained with the blood of children, old people and women. They cannot see the crime in his eyes which he covers with eye-glasses.

What does Philip Habib want to cook this time? What is there left which he has not done in the Arab countries and which he intends to do this time? For the past 4 months he has been cooking poison for the Arab peoples. For more than 4 months he has been sharpening American and Israeli knives. And what a slaughter! Still he hasn't had enough. He has burned his country--Lebanon: he destroyed it; he forgot his origins; he forgot his people and relatives; he forgot that Lebanon, where he was born and bred, is his homeland and sold himself for dollars and positions. This is Philip Habib whose origin is Lebanese, as they say, and who did all the destruction and killing in Lebanon and to the Lebanese people. He who does not entertain good for his homeland cannot possibly entertain good for others. No, he will never entertain anything good. This criminal knows nothing

but crime. This is what they taught him at the U.S. intelligence departments. He cannot rest unless he sees blood pouring and fires burning everything, and people dying by the hundreds. He then takes a glass of Lebanese arak and feels merry; the devil criminal inside him then calms down a bit.

Since all the people--the young before the old--from the children of our Palestinian, Lebanese and Arab people know this Philip and know his President Reagan and his imperialist administration, why then do the Arab leaders continue to receive him? The trouble is they still believe him and listen to him.

From the beginning when Habib first set foot in the Arab region we said his coming would bring no good and that he was bringing nothing but trouble to the Arab countries. No one believed us. Those who believed us a little said: Let us see, what a little. One trip after another he brought death and destruction to Lebanon everytime he came, and also the Lebanese, the Palestinian and the Arab peoples. Did you see what he brought in June? And what troubles he poured on Lebanon and what he did to the Lebanese and the Palestinians? He brought the zionists to sit near the president of the Lebanese republic, who at that time was Sarkis, and now he is sitting them near Amin Al-Jumayyil, the new Lebanese president.

No one denies he has succeeded in his actions. But not 100 percent. Because, as his masters the Americans and his friends the zionists drew up the plans for him, he intended that his June trip would be to finish off the Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO] and the Palestinian people and the Lebanese Muslims and the nationalists, and establish in Lebanon a state that would belong to America, just as is the case with Israel--a continuation and indeed an extension of Israel in this Arab spot. Although they have achieved a great deal in this plan, they could not destroy the PLO.

They are still slaying, destroying and killing. The Palestinians are still in Beirut and throughout Lebanon. There are also Syrian Arab forces still based in Lebanon. What do they want to do? They brought Philip Habib once more. The wolf began to go round and round, moving from one part to another. He said he has a new plan and that this plan favors the Arabs. Did you hear? He said Philip Habib has got a plan which favors the Arabs and which favors Lebanon and which favors the region.

Under this plan, which is in favor of the Arabs he wants to remove the Syrians and the Palestinians from Lebanon, and afterwards, he said, he will remove the zionists. Do you see how they scheme? Why did they not do as they agreed at first, that the zionists should leave when the Palestinian fighters left Beirut? Why did the zionists not leave? No, the zionists are kith and kin and they must stay in Lebanon to protect it and to defend it together with the Americans. As for the rest, they must

leave--even the Lebanese nationalists who are defending their country, land and homes, must leave and that at best if they pity their people they must lay down their arms and leave their people to the mercy of the zionists, the Americans, the agent spies, the phalangists and others.

Philip Habib has returned to lie, deceive and cheat and he wants to fool the people. But what Philip and his masters should realize this time is that, as the proverb says: You cannot guarantee that you will come out unscathed everytime--one day the roof will collapse over your head. Keep on going to and fro! Visit one capital after another as you wish and meet with Arab officials! We the Palestinians have nothing to do either with you or with your journeys. If those officials want to listen to you and believe you and hear your views, they are free to do so. They have brains in their heads and they know their (?salvation). If they want to stay in Lebanon let them stay; if they want to leave let them leave. But we Palestinians, O Philip, you cannot deceive us this time. Do not think that you deceived us before. No, neither Philip nor anyone else can do that to us. He had deceived others. Philip knows this full well. There is no departure except to Palestine. Let him come again and try once more; let him come, he and the zionists. This time he has the Americans with him. Let them come and try their luck. We shall see.

CSO: 4400/28

PLO PAPER DEMANDS REVENGE FOR BEIRUT MASSACRE

LD121046 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 11 Oct 82

[Text] Under the headline "How We Are to Face the Massacre" FILISTANI ATH-THAWRA, central PLO organ, writes:

During the past few years the Palestinian people have crystallized their national identity. The PLO, in its capacity as sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, has managed to gain international recognition. The resistance of our Palestinian people inside the occupied territories foiled all the Zionist and occupation authorities plans, first and foremost the autonomy plan, despite the fact that its battle is still continuing. In addition to this, through the Lebanese war, the Palestinian people have demonstrated their capability by their superb steadfastness during 3 months of fierce fighting, reflecting the Palestinian will to live. Thus the presence of the Palestinian people emerged through their revolution to become an international issue that demands a solution on the basis of meeting the Palestinian national rights.

In the middle of this Palestinian glory and elevation the Sabra and Shatila massacre was carried out to undermine the Palestinian struggle for Palestine and to obliterate all Arab and international initiatives seeking to compel the Israelis to withdraw from a portion of the Palestinian soil. The political price that Israel and its army must pay for committing the ugly massacre in Sabra and Shatila will not convince any Palestinian if it falls short of setting up an independent Palestinian national state. This is a matter which Israel greatly fears.

It is rather naive to rely on the Arab regimes and armies which did not fight and will not fight even if the enemy knocks at their door and the doors of their capital cities. We used to rely on the steadfastness and confrontation front, but this failed the test of the war in Lebanon. It is also futile to rely on the return of Egypt to the Arab rank. Egypt has not returned to the Arab rank despite the fact that the Arab rank has gradually been moving toward Egypt, though not publicly. Those who fight from behind microphones are now engaged in a dangerous game which is aimed at paralyzing the Palestinian revolution. They fear that a revolutionary outburst toward the Palestinian land will unbalance the Arab system. They

have failed to reach the battlefield. Therefore we find that they all use us a means for bargaining with the great powers in the world, but that they have not failed to find honeyed words with which to deceive their consciences.

The change toward which we aspire cannot be achieved without the Palestinian land where we can lay down a wall against Israel and the agent Arab regimes which are of the same kind. We the Palestinians must know what we have to do in the future. We must direct all our efforts toward setting up our state until we achieve this goal, and then we shall be able to reply to the Sabra and Shatila massacre. We must remember, while realizing this aim, that a Palestinian North Vietnam [words indistinct] before setting up the real Palestinian state. We have worked seriously together with the Arab masses in order to create such a state like North Vietnam in national and pan-Arab content and in anti-zionist and anti-imperialist content. But the Arab official regimes have been attacking us and destroying all that we have achieved in this respect.

The whims and aims which some of us entertain and in which self-interest tips in favor of this or that regime no longer interest any Palestinian. The only thing that meets the aspirations of all Palestinians is to arrive in Palestine by any means possible for us, and also to set the wheel of change in motion by which we can take revenge for all the massacres against our people; the Sabra and Shatila massacre will not be the last of such massacres.

CSO: 4400/28

'LE MONDE' VIEWS POSITION OF PALESTINIANS IN TUNISIA

PM081027 Paris LE MONDE in French 8 Oct 82 p 3

[Dispatch by Michel Bole-Richard: "In Tunisia, Isolation Is Added to Exile"]

[Text] Tunis--For the past month several thousand Palestinian fighters from Beirut have been installed in Tunisia. A small number of them, especially members of the general staff, are living in the Salwa Hotel in Bordj-Cedria, a large village situated by the sea, 25 km south of the capital. The only access road to the building is particularly well watched by the Tunisia police. It is necessary to cross two road blocks and show that you are clean before entering the hall--guarded by armed Fedayeen--where idle soldiers sit talking.

On the other hand, access to the Oued Zarga camp 80 km west of Tunis is still prohibited. The Palestinian military command is categorically opposed to the press being able to visit that agricultural training center which has been adapted to receive the Palestinian soldiers. An impressive police network has been set up both by the Tunisian authorities and the Palestine command. Thus isolation has been added to exile.

However the Fedayeen are allowed leave to visit Beja, a city which is very near, or even Tunis. How often is such leave granted? It is difficult to say. How are the Palestinian fighters accepting this new exodus? This enforced rest is clearly not to everybody's taste. Moreover it is officially admitted that almost 100 hundred of them have left "for Damascus on vacation," but, it is said, they are to return....

Those who are waiting in Oued Zarga kill time in any way they can: physical training, reading and political discussions on events in Lebanon. All hope to be able to leave again soon. Where for? Syria, Jordan? "Palestine!" They reply without hesitation. Inaction weighs heavily on them. It was felt particularly acutely during the Sabra and Shatila massacres. Many of them who had been reluctant to leave the Lebanese capital expressed their anger. What had happened to their families?

Several sources state that when Mr Yasir 'Arafat visited Oued Zarga, some fighters attacked the Palestinian leader, going so far as to accuse him

of "betrayal." The general staff categorically denies that tension has arisen. There is complete silence and some fighters are not afraid to assert that the Palestinians were deceived by the Americans and that their place is not here but "facing the zionist enemy."

"Lebanon," one of them said, "is part of me. Many of my brothers died there."

CSO: 4400/28

RECONSTRUCTION CRUSADE REHABILITATING PRISONERS

Tehran SOBH-E AZADEGAN in Persian 22 Sep 82 p 10

[Report on Qasr Prison, Tehran]

[Text] Not long ago in our society, the word prison was synonymous with horror and fear and the people did not know what was happening behind the prison bars.

The incidents inside a prison were considered the worst memories of the prisoners and what the people heard here and there about events behind bars would cause horror and fear in everyone.

In fact, in the past, prisons were horrible and the inhumane treatment of the prisoners by the prison guards and the authorities along with the psychological and physical torture common behind the walls and bars would even incite terror and anxiety in the experienced convicts. However, despite the horror and anxiety of the public concerning the prisons, the number of criminals increased every day. A number of the prisoners would commit crimes, despite having been freed many times and despite the tortures they had suffered, and would return to the prisons again and again.

Teaching Life in Prisons

The number of prisoners who were repeatedly sentenced to prison and who would commit crimes each time they were released was not small. Of course, this was not a result of the fact that the permanent customers, so to speak, of the prisons lacked any kind of vocation or trade. The workshops in prisons were always full of prisoners who worked during their prison terms and would certainly have been able to continue the same line of work and lead a peaceful life after being released to live in the society. What caused the return of the convicts to the prisons was lack of attention to rehabilitation in prisons. In the course of his sentence, a prisoner never experienced sincerity and never dealt with compassionate individuals. Teaching about life was never attended to in prisons. As a result, in the course of their

repeated convictions, the prisoners would not become acquainted with the realities of life and humanitarianism. The hands of the clock were continually moving. Time marched on and many people came and went without having learned the beginnings of humanity and without understanding the realities of human life.

### Prison, a Humanizing University

After the victory of the revolution, a change took place in the condition of prisons. As one of the prisoners put it, the prisons changed into humanizing universities. The antagonistic atmosphere of the prisons was eliminated and replaced by humane and Islamic treatment. This very thing resulted in the prisoners whose terms would end being able to start a peaceful life. The path of return to prisons was destroyed and the released prisoners now begin their peaceful lives with happy memories and become useful and serving individuals in the society.

### Among the Prisoners

The desirable change behind the prison bars encouraged us to explore the situation inside the prisons in a meeting with the prisoners and the authorities and to study the causes and the motivations behind these changes. For this purpose, the correspondent of SOBH-E AZADEGAN spent one morning this week speaking with the prisoners in Qasr Prison. He also had a short interview with the prison authorities.

The prisoners spoke openly about their past and future lives and the authorities spoke about the programs that are being implemented.

The prison environment was free of horror and the prisoners are working and awaiting freedom with their hearts full of hope and significant psychological change. In this way, they live behind the prison bars peacefully and review how they can serve the society and the people in order to compensate for the past as soon as they return to the society without wasting a moment.

### The Law of God is Great

Presently, a number of the Qasr prisoners are engaged in work and activities in the Reconstruction Crusade of the prison. The results of the work of the prisoners are significant. For this reason, the correspondent of SOBH-E AZADEGAN interviewed Mr 'Abbas Nuri, the managing director of the Reconstruction Crusade of Qasr Prison.

Mr 'Abbas Nuri explained the motivation behind the sincere efforts of the prisoners in the Reconstruction Crusade as follows: The motivation for work here is related to the law

which governs the environment. The law here is that God is great and nothing governs here but God's law.

#### The Conscience of the Prisoners is Awakened

Mr 'Abbas Nuri added: The individuals who have committed a crime for the first time and have been sent to the prisons and w' also have a light sentence are introduced to the Reconstruction Crusade. This selection is made after study by the Supervisory Council.

During the first weeks here, most of the prisoners are upset and restless. But the Islamic treatment of these brothers calms them down. The prisoners are educated here in an organized program in revolutionary ideology, behavior, and movement.

Here, we are all brothers and as you see, there are no armed guards in this section because the brother prisoners are totally free. Because of the Islamic treatment, their consciences are awakened and they realize the correct way of life.

#### We Have No Armed Guards

Here, the prisoners feel that they are individuals. For this reason, we need no armed guards. They are repentant and it has happened many times that individuals who did not confess even in the courts speak here sincerely and truthfully of their offensive actions. By using this sincerity and truthfulness, we are trying to train those brothers who do not have trades so that they will have definite jobs after being released. We even recommend them in order that they be absorbed by the society.

#### The Repentant Individuals Go to the Front

Mr 'Abbas Nuri continued: This is a miracle of the revolution. Here, everyone trusts everyone. If individuals who are sent to the Crusade from Qasr Prison should, God forbid, commit an offense such as taking some tools, by speaking to them once or twice after prayers and in the ideology classes, they change so much that they voluntarily confess to the offense they have committed. The repentant individuals volunteer for the front and do not even think for one moment about deviant and offensive ways.

#### We Are Indebted to the Leader of the Revolution

For example, two days ago, two of the brothers, Mohammad Reza Suri and Eftekhari, whose terms had ended, distributed sweets among the prisoners and left for the front the next day in order to compensate for their past and show their true value. We have also had martyrs. These changes are results of the revolution

and we owe them to the exalted leader of our revolution who made us understand true Islam.

#### The Results Are Good

In response to the question of how many are working in the Reconstruction Crusade of Qasr Prison at the present time, Mr Nuri said: Presently, 57 people are working here but the number changes. If Qasr Prison sends us more people, we will be ready to accept more responsibility. We hope this plan will be implemented throughout Iran and that we will be able to participate in carrying out the plans, because the results are good. Thusfar, within one and a half years, 240 persons have returned to the society.

#### The Prisoners Feel Responsibility

There is no compulsory work in the Reconstruction Crusade of the prison. But, on the whole, all the prisoners feel a responsibility. They have no armed guards and they are responsible for maintaining order.

#### No Financial Aid Is Given to the Crusade

The managing director of the Reconstruction Crusade of Qasr Prison said: We collect worn out and disposed of items and the brothers repair them here. They take them home and give them as gifts to their own families. We receive no financial aid. We only receive dry rations and we also receive a small amount of aid from the Reconstruction Crusade.

#### We Have Built a Library

We collect worn out items from the trash of offices and the brother prisoners convert them into items needed by the society.

#### Requesting Visits and Aid

Mr Nuri said: We expect the national authorities to see the quality and results of the prisoners' work in the Reconstruction Crusade and by providing aid to make the expansion of this program possible.

#### Starting Work in the Reconstruction Crusade

Mr Mohsen Rahimi, the supervisor of the Reconstruction Crusade of Qasr Prison, explained about how work in the Reconstruction Crusade began and said in this connection: The work of the Crusade began with a proposal by the political-ideological office of the police department of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which coordinates the management of the prisons and the agreement of

Qasr Prison. In the beginning, there were many problems, which I would rather not repeat. However, gradually, the work of the Reconstruction Crusade was improved and we became more hopeful. I should mention an example of what has been accomplished in the Reconstruction Crusade of the prison to help you appreciate the importance of the work of the brother prisoners.

#### Repairing Spare Parts for the Refinery

Some useless spare parts had been thrown away in the Tehran refinery since 14 years ago, which the brother prisoners sorted out and repaired. In the holy month of Ramazan [2 July-1 August] 1981, the parts were ready and were put to use.

Also, previously, the Germans were making heaters for schools. However, when they left, the work was left incomplete and they were set aside in some corner without being used. With the efforts of the brothers in the Reconstruction Crusade of Qasr Prison, the heaters were made and sent to the schools throughout the country.

#### Save the Prisoners

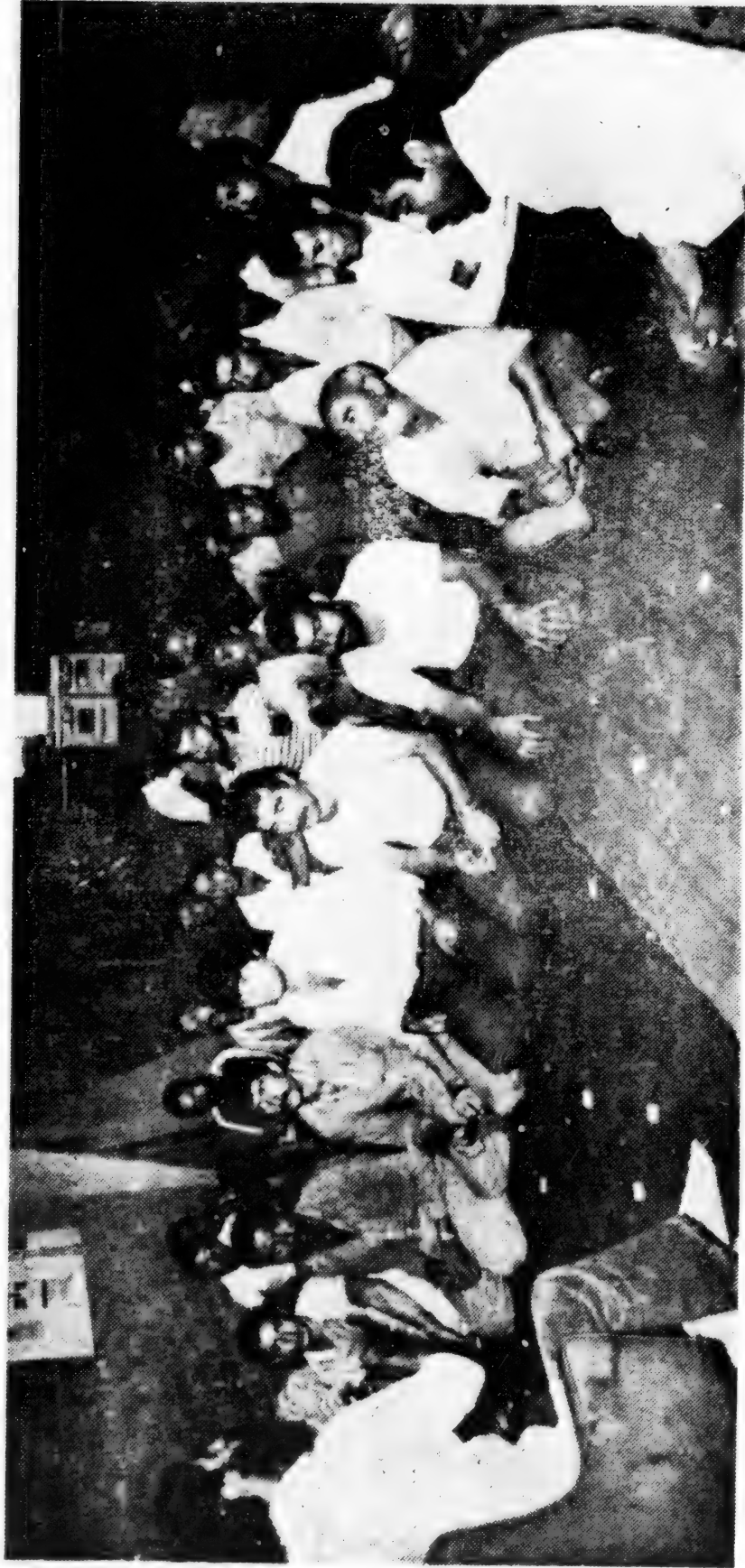
One of the repentant prisoners said: Some of the prisons are not at all successful in eliminating corruption in the individuals. We wish that all the prisoners could be kept in such a place as this and could be trained in this manner so that when they come to prison for a minor offense, they do not return to the society as murders and smugglers.

#### The Past Will Not Be Repeated

When the interview with the authorities of the Reconstruction Crusade and prisoners ended, we said goodbye to everyone. The prisoners were eagerly engaged in work and the expectations of life could be seen in their faces. They all spoke of the future and of what they will do as they contemplated their past sorrowfully, a past that will never be repeated.

It was as if the prisoners were strangers to despair and as if they were not prisoners at all. Hopefully, all prisoners will be able to rehabilitate themselves in a similar situation and return to the society as useful and serving individuals.

God Willing



All attend prayers because they see the internal change which takes place in them as a result of praying.



The prisoners cook for themselves and live together as members of one family



In the workshop of the Reconstruction Crusade of Qasr Prison, the prisoners work enthusiastically, spend their time as brothers, and are hopeful and optimistic about the future.

9593

CSO: 4640/9

# COMMANDER DESCRIBES NAVY'S WAR OPERATIONS

Tehran IRAN PRESS DIGEST in English 12 Oct 82 pp 12-15

[Text] Captain Bahram Afzali, Commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in an exclusive interview with the daily ETTELA'AT, gave his views on miscellaneous issues. Here are salient features of the interview:

Q. What significant role has the IRI Navy played during these two years of the invasive war undertaken by the Iraqi Ba'athists against Iran?

A. I would like, in reply, to clarify to you the role of our navy in its war against the enemy. Generally, navy carries out the following functions in war-time: 1. To keep open all of its sea communication lines to allow the continued commercial trade and consequently the existence of a healthy national economy. 2. To close down all enemy ports and to disallow any use of these ports, thus shutting down all sea trade of the enemy, and bringing economic pressure on it. 3. To control, preserve & safeguard all economic & vital resources of the country in the sea, and resultantly to provide the possibility for export of oil and other natural resources. 4. To destroy the vital, economic & strategic resources of the enemy in sea, and to deprive it from utilising the same. 5. To participate in the operations of the ground and other forces in order to land troops and equipment in specific coastal areas, if necessary and upon the request of other organisations and in coordination with the Joint Staff Command, in joint land-sea operations. 6. To participate in coastal bombing of specific economic and strategic points as included in plans and ratifications. 7. To completely preserve naval superiority and to have constant presence in the seas by utilising the flotilla and sea-borne units to prevent the enemy from coming out of its hideouts, and 8. To help people at all necessary times and to control waterways with a view to creating free and controlled zones for fishing by the coastal population in the region of operations, etc.

The Iranian Navy, reliant on firm faith and as a result of its round-the-clock efforts, succeeded in sinking over 25 modern vessels of the enemy during the first three months of the war, and the enemy, which was dreaming of conquering the Iranian islands, was deprived of a naval force. It was from then onwards that the balance of the war tilted in favour of the Islamic forces in all fields. Saddam who was well aware of the important role of the navy, also knew that the superiority of the IRI Navy would mean his death. Iraq was consequently faced with a major problem in extending support to its combat forces because of the

complete blockading of the two main ports of Basra and Ommol Gasr. This forced Iraq to acquire its war materials & basic goods through the Aghaba Port and by the overland route from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. This was the beginning of problems, exorbitant expenses and delayed delivery of goods for Iraq. We have renamed Oct. 28th as the "Navy Day" since on that historic day in 1980, we sank over 13 modern and most equipped naval vessels and drowned 11 warplanes of the enemy. Also the giant Iraqi oil terminals of "Albakar" and "Al-Omaiyya" were set afire and annihilated by our valiant marine, commando and navigation personnel through a very accurate tactical operation without any losses on our side. All along the Arvandroud Waterway and from Abadan & Khorramshahr, our commando units & guns caused irreparable losses and casualties to the Saddami Army. The helicopters and hovercraft of the Iranian Navy were the only means of transporting personnel & equipment during the siege of Abadan, and finally as a result of the timely decree of the Imam and with the untiring efforts of the combatants of the Army of Islam on the ground, this siege was broken. All these moves especially the annihilation of the Iraqi Navy, blockade of "Ommol Gasr" and destruction of oil terminals of "Albakar" and "Alomaiyyeh" were the worst economic and military blows that were inflicted upon Iraq which had, in the first 2 or 3 months of the war occupied the large section of our soil.

Q. The combatant personnel of the IRI Navy were able to annihilate the Iraqi Navy in the Persian Gulf within a few months of the start of the war. How was this victory achieved?

A. At the start of the imposed war, the Iranian Navy too, similar to most of the organs & organisations, didn't enjoy a suitable position due to the presence of some anti-revolutionary elements. Coupled with this were the technical, training & expertise problems due to which our naval flotilla constantly used to remain in coastal areas. Lack of attention to repair and maintenance affairs is yet another dangerous and catastrophic issue because a naval vessel has a sophisticated technical system and hundreds of precision instruments, and it takes long to set them right before making a vessel seaworthy. But at the start of the war, we came across a new & miraculous phenomenon, as all the specialized & experienced personnel from various bases hurried to the South and with their concerted efforts, coupled with proper supervision, managed to revive the space of only a few days. In this way, our naval vessels were gradually sent into the sea one after another to carry out the orders issued by the Supreme Defence Council to confront the enemy warships and to destroy them. Simultaneously, the IRI Navy set up a tactical command in the south and began implementing plans to annihilate the Iraqi Navy and its economic centers. Also, valiant commando units were despatched to safeguard and defend Khorramshahr in the face of the aggressor enemy, and created epics in the process. At the beginning of the war, enemy vessels, aware of the superiority of the IRI Navy and Air Force, had no courage at all to come out of "Ommol Gasr." Perhaps, it might not sound believable to many people that this issue was disliked by our naval officers, and hence our vessels began approaching "Ommol Gasr," and eventually forcing the Iraqi warships to come out of their hideouts. It was exactly the chance we were looking for. During a nightly operation in the early weeks of the war, we destroyed 5 missile and torpedo boats of the Iraqi Navy. This compelled the enemy warships to go back into hiding. This time, our tactical command in the south chalked out a very daring plan to destroy the two giant Iraqi oil terminals of "Albakar" and "Al-Omaiyyeh." With the help of a number of our valiant

navy personnel, we were able to raid these terminals and set them ablaze while arresting a number of Iraqi forces stationed there. When Saddam saw this brave move which had deprived him of his oil exports, he got mad with rage and ordered his whole navy to go into action. With the calculated plans we had already made, we destroyed, with the help of our marine helicopters, naval vessels and warplanes, over 13 of the Iraqi warships as well as downed 11 of the enemy warplanes within a space of just 24 hours. It happened on Nov. 28, 1980.

Q. What have been the losses and casualties of the Iraqi Navy during the past few years of the war?

A. The bulk of the active Iraqi Navy was destroyed in the early days of the war, and the surviving naval personnel of the enemy were rescued by our combatants, helicopters and naval vessels, and are presently being held captive. It could perhaps appear funny but it is a fact that after the annihilation of the Iraqi Navy, we received reports saying that even the administrative and support personnel of the enemy navy have fled their headquarters along the Iraqi coast and the Iraqi Navy has now been totally abandoned. Some of the Iraqi naval personnel have fled to Iran and sought asylum with us. We firmly believe that Iraq won't be able to have a navy worth the name for several years to come since the process of formation of a new naval force is a long one and quite different from other forces. The seas are in our full command and hence Iraq cannot receive any new vessel, and of course, the training of personnel as well as technical and tactical issues are not easy ones.

Q. What is your assessment of the power of the Iranian Navy in the Persian Gulf?

A. Since we have annihilated the second most powerful navy in the Persian Gulf region, that is, of Iraq, we have simultaneously been able to implement the major repairs, renovation, technical & instructional projects behind the lines. We believe that a navy, in order to remain active, should aim at attaining self-sufficiency in technical and training spheres. We have expanded our plants and specialised personnel and are ourselves carrying out all repairs & maintenance tasks by gaining valuable experience during the past few years. Above all, we have secured self-confidence, and set up a higher education center in naval sciences where our students are getting their training for the first time in Iranian history. We have also set up a command & staff college so as not to send our officers for training abroad, and finally we have put into effect the cultural & technical revolution. So, we are getting stronger every day because we believe for the countries having access to seas, the fate of war is to be decided on the sea, and hence we continue to boost our combat capability.

Q. When in your opinion, would the final victory of the combatants of Islam be achieved?

A. I think that our forces have taught a very good lesson to Saddam and his reactionary supporters. After the fall of Bani-Sadr and full defeat of this current, the forces of Islam intensified their blows in all fields, such as in various military operations, upon Iraq. We brought disgraceful defeats upon the Iraqi forces at sea, in air and on ground through our firm faith and self-sacrifices. Saddam has thus been thwarted in his designs. We possess such a great

force Iraq to accept any of our terms. As the Imam and other top officials of Iran have often declared, we are not warmongers. We are awaiting the Iraqi nation to become aware of the treasons of the Ba'athist regime, and to play its constructive role in causing the collapse of that regime. In case our just demands are met, there would remain no issue, and we would attain greatest victory and Saddam his worst defeat.

Q. What is the condition of security in the Persian Gulf for the tankers and commercial vessels' traffic to the Iranian ports?

A. There has been no precedent in naval battles of the world that a port like Bandar Imam Khomeyni, which could be located so close to enemy frontiers and within the range of enemy artillery & missiles could continue to remain so protected and active. This glorious feat is bound to be recorded in history. We have often declared and also guaranteed, and it has been duly proved that our ports are safe, and no power in the Persian Gulf & Oman Sea can threaten our interests as we have plans for all eventualities (ETTELA'AT, Sept. 29).

CSO: 4600/50

FOREIGN TRADE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED

Tehran IRAN PRESS DIGEST in English 5 Oct 82 pp 3-4

[Text]

BULGARIA: The head of the Chamber of Commerce of Bulgaria accompanied by the Secretary of the Embassy of Bulgaria in Tehran talked about the commercial relations between Iran and Bulgaria in a press conference on September 27, 1982. He discussed on the level of trade between the two countries before and after the Islamic Revolution, and said that during 1971 and 1978 the amount of Bulgarian trade with Iran was about \$600 million annually. He also said that after the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, Bulgaria declared its desire to expand relations with revolutionary Iran. After the economic boycott against the Islamic Republic by some Western countries was announced the Transport Corporation of Bulgaria continued to transport goods from Europe to Iran and further more he said, this was a daily process. Later the head of the Bulgarian Chamber of Commerce spoke about the size of trade between the two countries after the Islamic revolution. He said that "after 1978 trade amounted to \$120 million, in 1980 reached \$230 and in 1981 surpassed \$250 million. The amount of trade between the two countries is expected to reach \$500 million during the current year. He also added that the crude oil and oil products purchases from the Islamic Republic of Iran is about 7 million barrels a year of which about 200,000 tons are oil products. In conclusion he said, it is expected that the amount of oil purchases from the Islamic Republic of Iran will double. Talks are also underway for the purchasing by Bulgaria of non-oil products as well as spare parts for cars and buses from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

JAPAN : The Iranian Ambassador to Tokyo, Abdulrahim Govahi, in a press conference said that resumption of work of the petrochemical complex at Imam Khomeini Port, southern Iran, needed at least six months time. Work on the complex which is a joint Iran-Japan project, was abandoned following the outbreak of the Iraqi imposed war in Sept. 22, 1980. So far several negotiation teams from both the countries have held talks on the resumption of the work on the project and terms of its completion. The Iranian Ambassador to Tokyo sounded optimistic on the progress of talks concerning the project and said that the maximum

period that the Iraqi imposed war would last was six months. "This is the maximum time because Iran would not allow the war to continue forever," he remarked.

Commenting on the relations between Iran and Japan, Govhai said that there was room for further development of these ties.

#### Textile Mill Production Up

Iran Barak, a textile factory in Rasht, has increased its output by 35 their units up to an average of 21 percent more than the designed capacity during the war week ( started on Sept. 22) , to announce their solidarity with the Moslem nation of Iran. The increase were as follows : Tehran refinery 16 percent , Isfahan refinery 35 percent, Tabriz refinery 15 percent , Shiraz refinery 20 percent , the Lavan Distillation Complex 20 percent.

It should be mentioned that the production level of Tehran Refinery and Lavan distillation complex reached their highest level for the first time since their establishment.

#### No Reduction in OPEC's Prices

In spite of pressures on OPEC , this organization will not reduce the price of oil, said the Secretary General of OPEC, In Bonn, on September 29. According to the French newspaper 'Le Matin ' the OPEC Secretary General further said the organization undoubtedly would decide to continue its fixed prices in 1983.

#### Roads & Piers Constructions

Since the culmination of the Islamic Revolution more than 10,000 Kms of village roads have been laid by the personnel of the Roads and Transportation Department said the Minister of Roads and Transportation, Hadi-Nejad Husseinian , in Kenarak on October 2. Nejad-Husseinian in an interview with IRNA , further said that another 20,000 Kms. of village roads were in the process of being laid. The construction of 250 meters of breakwater for the local chahbahar port has been completed , he said adding that two unloading piers would be constructed in this port. Another pier to be constructed at the mouth of chahbahar Gulf would be completed in less than one year and the third pier was the Iran Bandar Pier. The Minister further said that the loading and unloading level of these ports would amount to one million tons after the completion of the said projects. Nejad Husseinian also said that measures were under way to extend the width of the Chahbahar-Zahedan highway. Minister of Roads and Transport who was accompanied by Minister of state and Head of the Plan and Budget Organization , Dr. Mohammad Taqi Banki and Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Mohammad Shaha Gonabadi also inspected the residence of the personnel of the Naval Base of Konarak.

#### Cotton Yield Reaches 90,000 Tons

The product of carded cotton in the year 1360 (1981) was approximately 64,500 tons. This figure compared to last year's product showed 12 percent increase. In the current Iranian year the level of the cultivated cotton is 205,325 hectares and the total product is 90,000 tons of carded cotton and this total compared to the last year product indicates 25 percent increase.

CSO: 4600/51

## ACTIVITIES OF BAZAARIS, SOVIETS CRITICIZED

### Bazaar Community Problem

Tehran IRAN PRESS DIGEST in English 5 Oct 82 p 4

[Text] Some of the traders & businessmen in the Bazaar this week received warnings from some secret terrorist organisations wherein they have been threatened that their shops and offices would be bombed. Tehran's Bazaar, which was one of the centers relied upon by the freedom-fighters and anti-British strugglers in the 1950s and during the oil nationalisation movement, has now fallen into a pitiable state because it is faced with threats from all sides. Revolutionary courts and IRI officials issue warnings to them that, in case they hoard the goods needed by the people, they might be executed, while the terrorists threaten them with the explosion of the Bazaar if they don't close down their shops as a token of protest against the government. At the same time, their business is devoid of any briskness due to the nationalisation of foreign trade and shortage of commodities.

Mohammadi Gilani, the Religious Judge & Head of Islamic Revolutionary Courts, in his recent interview once again threatened to sever the hands and feet of the hoarders, and called upon the people to reconnoitre their warehouses and report the same to the government. However, since he is aware of the adverse effect of this threat, he, while appeasing the noble businessmen of the Bazaar, said: "The respected and noble businessmen of the Bazaar, who are in consonance with, and rather have been pioneers, in the revolutionary issues, are dear & respectful to us, and the funds of many organs during and after the Revolution too were met and are being met by the same respected community in the Bazaar. So, we are not addressing here that group of the noble people who are in the service of the Bazaar, but in case we speak of anyone, such persons are excluded from them. We mean here that group of robbers who have infiltrated through the Bazaar. These are a handful of Pseudo-businessmen, and their punishment is to the extent permitted to us by Islam, and with the confirmation of the issues of profiteering and hoarding, and many of them might be put before the firing squad" (ETTELA'AT, Sept. 30).

It should be recalled that last year two businessmen from the Bazaar, namely Dastmalchi and Mozaffarian, were arrested and executed on the charge of supporting the ousted President Bani Sadr.

### Increased Chilliness With USSR

Tehran IRAN PRESS DIGEST in English 5 Oct 82 p 5

[Text] This week, the exit in protest of the Soviet Ambassador and team from the inaugural ceremonies of Tehran's International Fair was being discussed in political circles. Reports say that at the end of President Khamene'i's inaugural speech on Sept. 20, 1982, the Iranian guests expressed their sentiments for him, and immediately after the slogan of "Down With America," there was also chanted the slogan of "Down With USSR." The Soviet delegation comprising of the Ambassador, Embassy staff and commercial representatives, immediately stood up in protest and left the scene, and the efforts of the Iranian Commerce Minister to stop them from leaving remained abortive. The Soviet Ambassador, who is well-versed in Persian & Arabic languages, couldn't however ignore these slogans. In this way, the Soviet happiness at having the biggest pavilion in this year's Fair didn't last long.

Anti-Soviet feelings have been expressed in recent weeks far more than before in both Radio & Television and Press and in the speeches of government officials. The Radio and Television carry commentaries against the Soviet policy in Afghanistan and Lebanon nearly every day. The serialised articles of JALALEDDIN FARSI and the weekly SOROUSH, the organ of RTV, elucidate the aggressive strategy of the Soviet Union in the region, and Imam Khomeyni cautions school students against the danger of "Soviet deviants." The latest of these views was expressed by Premier Mousavi last week when he said: "Undoubtedly, everyone knows who manufactures MIG planes. In the light of this fact, Soviet aid to Saddam indicates that arrogant powers are backing him. This support, in fact, is due to their lack of realistic recognition of the Islamic Revolution in the region, as also of the power that the Islamic Revolution of Iran possesses in creating an upheaval in the region. Apparently, the super powers haven't reached this conclusion that the Islamic Republic prior to being dependent on equipment, is reliant upon faith."

CSO: 4600/52

CENTER FOR WATER RESEARCH, STUDIES ESTABLISHED

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Aug 82 p 7

[Article by Hasan 'Aqil: "Establishment of a Center for Water Research and Studies at University of Jordan; Development of Water Resources and Protecting Them from Threats of Pollution and Depletion"]

[Text] The board of regents of the University of Jordan has approved the establishment of a center for water research and studies at the university to coordinate and intensify current scientific efforts and provide greater impetus for efforts that must be exerted and to help develop water resources in Jordan and protect them from the threats of pollution and depletion. The center is also aimed at improving the proper uses of water by drafting and implementing an integrated plan for scientific research, publishing and providing the results of this research to the appropriate quarters in Jordan to apply them, making consultation services available, engaging in studies required by this sector and cooperating with other scientific quarters in Jordan to provide technical services involving the monitoring of water pollution and everything that will protect the quality of water suitable for various uses.

Establishment of this center was stressed by a study submitted by the national preparatory committee to the Jordanian conference of sciences and technology which was held in Amman in 1978. The study stated that development and protection of water resources and increasing their effective use were all top technology in Jordan and that the water sector was in the forefront of national resources which were the focus of the successive development plans in Jordan because was constituted the basic foundation of social and economic development. The study said that available water resources in Jordan, both surface and ground water, were facing many threats, mainly the dangers of chemical and biological pollution, as well as the threats of depletion and imbalance between quantities used and quantities available, both because of dangers from man and natural factors. Numerous studies made in Jordan have shown that Jordan's current water requirements far exceed water resources currently exploited for various uses.

Studies and projections have also shown that Jordan not only needs increased quantities of water available but is in urgent need of protecting the quality of available water from the dangers of depletion and pollution.

The studies indicated that there is a big gap between the ways in which water is put to various uses at the present time and the ideal ways for water use, whether in the areas of drinking water and residential purposes or industry and agriculture, and that there are major areas for improving those ways with a view toward improving the proper uses of that water and protecting the quality required for various uses through engaging in studies and scientific research and applying the results in developing various water resources and their uses.

8389

CSO: 4404/697

CHANGES IN MILITARY OFFICERS' SERVICE LAW PROPOSED

Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Aug 82 p 2

[Article: "Amending Officer's Service Law in Jordanian Armed Forces"]

[Text] The quarters concerned have referred a bill to the Consultative National Assembly amending the law on officers' service in the Jordanian armed forces:

Following are the details:

Article 1: This law will be labeled a law amending the law on officers' service in the Jordanian armed forces for 1982 and will be read with Law No 35 for 1966 referred to below into the original law and any amendments as one law in effect from the date it is published in the official gazette.

Article 2: Article 3 of the original law is amended in addition to the following phrase up to the end of paragraphs a. and b.:

"The commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force as a member."

Article 3: The provisions of paragraph o. of Article 30 of the original law is abrogated and replaced by the following text:

"o. Notwithstanding the contents of any other legislation the officer, with the approval of the commander in chief, can belong to any union for the purposes of participating in the retirement fund or social security or in any other similar fund to benefit from the rights granted to participants in them and can pay the set fees and subscriptions of that union and those funds. During the period of his service in the armed forces the officer cannot participate in any other union work or activity with the exception of aspects of academic activity the participation in which is approved by the commander in chief."

Article 4: The provisions of paragraph a. of Article 1 of the original law are abrogated and replaced by the following text:

"a. The officer who is retired has the right to an amount equal to the total pay and leave allowances for 2 full years, in addition to his retirement rights.

The officer whose service is terminated for any other reason has the right to a sum equal to the total pay and leave allowances he would have been due were he to have remained in service. This amount will be paid to the officer in one lump sum when his work is terminated. If he returns to service before the end of the leave the amount equaling the remaining period of the leave will be deducted from his pay."

Article 5: Article 108 of the original law is amended by deleting the phrase "for a period of no more than 1 month," replacing it by the phrase "for a period not to exceed 40 days."

#### Causes

The bill stated that the following were the reasons for drafting it:

Adding the commander of the Royal Air Force to the officers' committee to participate in its business when considering matters pertaining to officers in general and officers of the Royal Air Force in particular, thereby making him fully aware of any actions or decisions taken with regard to those matters, as well as benefiting from his expertise.

Allowing officers to join professional unions for specific objectives, that is, to benefit from rights of retirement and social security and other rights and privileges granted by those unions to participants in their funds, in addition to giving them the opportunity to take part in the functions and academic aspects of the union's activity with the approval of the commander in chief in order to give them encouragement in scientific fields. This is the proposed amendment for Article 30 of the law.

Granting the officer who is retired a sum equal to his pay and allowances for leave for a period of 2 full years while continuing the sum granted to the officer when his service is terminated by any means other than retirement as it is with no change. The amendment proposed for Paragraph a. of Article 9 of the law.

Extending maternity leave to 40 days maximum, instead to the current period which does not exceed 1 month, to match the proposed regulation in the new civil service regulation. This is the proposed amendment to Article 108 of the law.

8389

CSO: 4404/697

## INCREASE IN GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT NOTED

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 31 Aug 82 p 5

[Article by Zayyad Farhan: "Gross Local Product Rises to 1.074 Billion Dinars Last Year; National Exports Grow 40.7 Percent and Imports 46.3 Percent"]

[Text] The Jordanian Central Bank's annual report has indicated that the growth rate of the gross local product [GLP] last year in market price was about 20.1 percent and 8 percent at fixed prices.

The report stated that as the result of the rapid growth in net income from foreign investment, the gross national product [GNP] grew 22.2 percent at the market price and 10 percent at fixed prices.

These high rates reflected the growth of all economic sectors since the production sectors registered percentages of growth varying between 16.5 percent and 25.1 percent, except for the agricultural sector, while the services sector registered growth rates varying between 12.3 and 27.5 percent. The commodity production sectors thereby had a 36.8 percent share of the GLP while the services sector accounted for 63.2 percent.

### Production Sectors

From the standpoint of sectors, the industrial sector had a 20 percent growth rate although the growth was centered in the financing industries since the income derived from the industrial sector grew by 76.8 percent while the extraction industries had a 23.2 percent share.

The income generated by the agricultural sector last year, 1981, registered a decline in growth rate, having not gone over 8 percent. This decline in the growth rate reflected the production of most agricultural crops, particularly field crops whose production dropped 56 percent. This slow growth rate in agricultural production in general stems from last year's poor growing season compared with the preceding year.

The report stated that despite a severe rise in the prices for the clothing and shoes component, amounting to 30.5 percent, and a 16.9 percent rise in the prices of soft drinks and tobacco, the overall cost of living figure in

the Kingdom for 1981 maintained the same level of increase as seen in 1980, that is, 11.1 percent. This stems primarily from the relative stability of prices in the foodstuffs component and the housing and housing requirements component since the former only increased 7.6 percent in price and the latter 2.4 percent.

#### Monetary Stability

The report indicated that during the past year the Central Bank had continued to perform its primary task in maintaining monetary stability, regulating the amount, type and course of credit, in addition to guiding and regulating the increase in money demand.

The report stated that the main characteristic of the Central Bank's monetary policy during 1981 was flexibility, along with an emphasis on creating opportunities for commercial banks to expand in offering local loans, particularly long term loans, along with the necessity of maximum utilization of accumulated funds.

#### New Measures

The report adds that to achieve this objective, the Central Bank adopted a number of new measures, principally the gradual reduction from 14 to 11 percent for the ratio of currency reserves on savings and term deposits and the reduction of the maximum permitted to commercial banks to keep in the form of balances outside from 50 percent to 35 percent of their total outside obligations. In addition it raised the interest on loans granted to non-residents to a 10 percent minimum and 12 percent maximum. The report says that during the past year that activities of the Jordanian banking machinery exhibited a noticeable slowdown compared with the past 7 years since the Central Bank's assets and liabilities grew 9.1 percent compared with 26.7 percent in 1980. Also the assets and liabilities of commercial banks and the housing bank registered a growth of 24.3 percent compared with 30 percent in 1980. The report stated that this slowdown resulted from a change in the components of the assets of the banking machinery since the growth rate of foreign assets declined while local credit increased noticeably.

#### Loan Institutions

Specialized lending institutions continued to expand their activities since during 1981 their assets and liabilities rose by 35 percent compared with 30 percent in 1980. At the end of the year they totalled 334 million dinars. The report also said that the slowdown in the growth of the activities of the banking machinery last year directly reflected the growth in local liquidity which registered the lowest percentage since 1975, having amounted to 19.8 percent last year compared with 27.4 percent in 1980.

The report explained that since all local revenues and financial aid had exceeded all estimates of the overall budget law of 1981, public revenues received last year had surpassed the projections of the budget law, having amounted to 656.9 million dinars, a 29.6 percent increase over the 1980 level.

## Local Revenues

During the past year local revenues registered a 31.1 percent growth. This increase, which is viewed as the biggest increase in tax and non-tax revenues since the former increased by 26.7 percent and the latter by 46.3 percent.

Foreign revenues increased 28.3 percent last year as the result of financial increases in aid which amounted to 30.7 percent.

## Public Expenses

Last year public expenses also registered high growth rates amounting to 16.1 percent compared with 9.2 percent during 1980. This rise in the rate of increase in public expenses stems from the increase in all current expenses and capital expenses, the former having risen 31.1 percent and the latter 20.6 percent.

The report also indicated that last year the commercial sector also witnessed heavy activity since foreign trade (exports plus imports) grew 45.4 percent compared with 24.9 percent in 1980, totaling 1,290,100,000 dinars. The per capita share of foreign trade thereby rose from 389 dinars in 1980 to 561 in 1981.

The increased growth rate of foreign trade reflected both exports and imports alike since national exports registered a growth of 40.7 percent, the value of re-exported goods rose by 43.4 percent while imports rose 46.3 percent.

The report stated that despite the growth of exports and imports by percentages that are close, the absolute increase in imports was far greater than the absolute increase in exports, worsening the trade deficit as this deficit totaled 803.7 million dinars last year compared with 543.3 million dinars during the preceding year. However, despite this large trade deficit, the scale of services and the movement of capital had a tangible effect on covering this deficit to achieve a saving in the Jordanian balance of payments amounting to 56.6 million dinars, compared with 144.9 million in 1980.

The report explained that preliminary estimates indicate a rise in the GLP, in costs prices, from 907.3 million dinars in 1980 to 1,074,300,000 dinars in 1981, a 18.4 percent increase, as the result of increased income generated from various economic sectors. The production sectors registered growth rates, in current prices, varying between 16.5 and 25.1 percent, with the exception of the agricultural sector in which no rate of increase exceeded 8 percent because of the poor growing season last year compared with the previous year. The services sectors also achieved different growth rates. The financial and real estate services grew by 27.5 percent, wholesale and retail trade, restaurants and hotels by 26.1 percent and the other services sectors by percentages ranging from 12.3 percent for the government services producers sector to 21 percent for the transport and communications sector.

AMMAN HITS SYRIAN RADIO ON 'ARAFAT-HUSAYN TALKS

JN121816 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Oct 82

[Station commentary: "News Sources and Unity of Stands"]

[Text] We in this country are not against any person who wants to have his own independent opinion. The same applies to any side or government that wants to have an independent opinion, because this is our course and our philosophy of government and life. However, what we really scorn, and we believe that every Arab joins us in this, is when an Arab radio station repeats literally a news item carried by Israeli radio without any effort to rephrase the item in a way that it may not appear a verbatim repeat of what was carried by Israeli radio.

We say all this after we noticed what was reported by the Arabic service of Israeli radio the day before yesterday. Damascus radio repeated the same two items 4 hours after they were carried on Israeli radio. The two news items are related to Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

At 1530 on the day before yesterday, Israeli radio textually reported the following: A Palestinian source in Amman has stated that it was decided to cancel a luncheon scheduled today in honor of 'Arafat and the reasons for the cancellation have not been announced. At 2115 on the same day, Damascus radio reported the following: A Palestinian source has stated that it was decided to cancel a luncheon due to be held today which was to be followed by a discussion at the headquarters of the Jordanian trade union federation in Amman. No explanation has so far been given for the cancellation.

At 1730 on the day before yesterday Israeli radio also reported the following: A statement circulated today during a press conference held in Jerusalem by the committee of solidarity with Bir Zayt University said that these organizations [Tanzimat] reject Reagan's plan because it disregards the Palestinians' national rights. Therefore, this plan cannot be considered a solution to the Palestinian cause. These organizations also reject King Husayn's proposal because it comes within the framework of the U.S. plan. These organizations stress that the bloody events in Lebanon prove that the Palestinians' security cannot be assured except in an independent state.

At 2115 of the same evening, Damascus radio reported the following: Citing a statement circulated today during a press conference held in occupied Jerusalem by the committee of solidarity with Bir Zayt University, the enemy radio said that these organizations [Tanzimat] reject Reagan's plan because it disregards the Palestinians' national rights. Therefore, this plan cannot be considered a solution to the Palestinian cause. These organizations also reject King Husayn's proposal because it comes within the framework of the U.S. plan. These organizations stress in the statement that the bloody events in Lebanon prove that the Palestinians' security cannot be attained except in an independent state. This was the textual report by Damascus radio.

Is Israel the source of analyses for Damascus radio? Is this why the information and news items that reflect the personal view and judgement of the reporter are the same in Damascus and Israel? It is noticed that the two items reported by Israeli radio and later textually repeated by Damascus radio are both analytical propaganda reports intended to cause discord between the Jordanian and Palestinian efforts. We say the Jordanian and Palestinian efforts and not peoples because the Jordanians and Palestinians are one people, who have the same cause and face the same challenge. Those two analytical propaganda reports were broadcast hoping to attack the Jordanian-Palestinian effort.

Let us ignore the simple news editor [at Damascus radio] who adheres to instructions coming to him from higher authorities, and just outline the fact that the government of Damascus and the government of Israel, unfortunately, have the same stand on the Jordanian-Palestinian issue. Both of them try to separate the Jordanian effort from the Palestinian effort. Otherwise, how can damascus radio agree to textually broadcast two Israeli propaganda reports? Furthermore, every single Arab will ask himself this question: How can the government of Damascus and the government of Israel unite in striking at the Jordanian-Palestinian effort?

CSO: 4400/28

DAILY ON REASONS FOR IRAN-IRAQ WAR

GFO41122 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 4 Oct 82 p 6

[Article by Ahmad Jarrallah]

[Text] Is it true that Iran is waging its war against Iraq now with the single-minded intention of deposing Saddam Husayn? If it is so, then we are faced with a very serious situation indeed.

People's blood is being shed in a conflict based on personal hatred, in the name of aims without any true political considerations and lacking logic.

For the people of Iraq, Saddam Husayn is a national symbol. Iran is making a big mistake if it thinks that all that bloodletting can make Iraqis renounce that symbol, a man who was able to put aside conflicts with which the internal Iraqi front was riddled for years.

Further, whom does Iran want to see in Saddam's seat? Do they want to see Iraq ruled by another ayatollah? Do they think that the Iraqi people are genuinely interested to follow Iran's path now littered with murders, sectarian violence and mass executions?

When the Iraqis review all the supposed alternatives, their answer must be only a clear rejection. For the Iraqi leadership has matured into international stature and no people will abandon mature leadership. The Iraqi people see in their President Saddam Husayn the fruit of their more than 25 years long search. They see him as a man who was able to end their own differences and splits, a legacy of the rule by previous leaders.

Moreover the Iraqi leader was able to build armed forces capable of repulsing modern age tartar hordes who do not depend on logic, military tactics or international rules in their conduct of war.

The world has noted that Iraq wants peace, despite the country's obvious capability to defend itself. The intransigence of Israel and that state's defiance of international laws has terrified most people.

Now the world is faced with Iranian defiance, which must be stopped or else harm will spread not only to the Gulf region but to the entire Arab peninsula and the world.

Iran is now playing with fire in a strategic region that also safeguards economic interests of the world.

Iran may be sinking, but it does not know it is getting wet...

CSO: 4400/28

PAPERS VIEW U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS

LD301336 Kuwait KUNA in English 1058 GMT 30 Sep 82

[Text] Kuwait, Sep 30 (KUNA)--Extracts from Kuwaiti newspaper editorials Thursday:

"AL-QABAS" on [word indistinct] U.S.-Israeli conflict in Lebanon:

"What is currently taking place in Lebanon is an open conflict between the U.S. and Israel, though the two sides decline to officially admit the existence of such conflict.

"The clash between the two states is partly concealed because it is a well known fact that the United States does not engage in direct conflicts with small countries, on the one hand. On the other, Israel is aware that Washington is its last resort in the world and cannot (?afford) to antagonize its sole ally.

"Israel has thought that getting the 'go ahead' for its forces to invade Lebanon with the aim of crushing the Palestine liberation was a mandate that gave Israel a free hand in Lebanon, but the Lebanese apparently managed to bring the two allies to a confrontation between them.

"The U.S.-Israeli difference climaxed with the Israeli-planned assassination of President-elect Bashir Al-Jumayyil and the subsequent massacre of Palestinians in the refugee camps.

"Israel wanted to hit hard the Phalange Party which [word indistinct] to disobey the Israeli instruction and resort to the United States. It also aimed at reviving the sectarian strife between Muslims and Christian Lebanese using the Christian militias to carry out the massacres of civilian Palestinians.

"Moreover, Israel tried to eliminate U.S. envoy Philip Habib from the scene as to be replaced by someone who was more sympathetic to the Jewish state. For Tel-Aviv saw a real enemy in Habib who persuaded President Reagan that Washington should directly handle the Lebanese crisis instead of letting Israel do the job."

AR-BA'Y AL-'AMM on the same subject:

"The withdrawal of the Israeli forces from West Beirut, at the request of Washington, clearly indicates that the U.S. administration can impose whatever it likes on Israel.

"Israel, for its part, fully realises that it signifies nothing outside the shadow of the American umbrella.

"The American demand for the Israeli pullout gave rise to a tactical contradiction between the two allies. Israel wanted to keep its forces in Lebanon so as to have a free hand in 'the reformulation of new Lebanon', but Washington, for special considerations, decided to be present in Lebanon to draw up future policies for this region.

With the excuse of the massacres in Beirut, the Americans made a comeback to Beirut so as "to rescue" Lebanon with an official Lebanese request this time.

"The U.S. thus has disclosed that it can exercise pressure on Israel but [word indistinct] does so. This, consequently, indicates that it is Washington which refuses to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation and obstruct the setting up of an independent Palestinian state.

"On the other hand, the American peace plan proposed by President Reagan constitutes a departure from the Camp David accords, a fact that can lead to the conclusion that Washington is not under the influence of zionism though it shares zionism expansionist ambitions to dominate the Arab world.

"Hence, the situation in Lebanon can be formulated with American role in mind and the Arabs still maintain in Lebanon some means of pressure which can be applied to Washington as to give the Palestine rights a push forward towards their goals for the foreseeable stage.

CSO: 4400/28

PAPER URGES END TO PLO-SYRIA RIFT

GF131210 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 13 Oct 82 p 1

[Editorial: "The Palestinians and Damascus"]

[Text] The Syrian leadership's differences with Yasir 'Arafat are not new. What is new is to announce these differences openly in a manner that constitutes a new shock to the Arab conscience. Those who are close to the Syrian and Palestinian leaderships have heard many rumors about the reservations each side has toward the other. Such talk has been going round for at least a year, although it has intensified following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and reached its climax with Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] departure from Beirut and the events that followed this departure--during the Fes summit conference and following the assassination of the PLO chief of staff, Brig Gen Sa'd Sayil.

Syria is basically of the Palestinians and a base that should not be relinquished. Indeed, it should be preserved as a base to the end. Ever since Egypt was taken out of the conflict by As-Sadat following the Camp David accords, Damascus has moved to the forefront as a bastion of support for Palestinian action. Just as Cairo had a basic role in giving political support for Palestinian action, Damascus also has an equally basic role in giving political and military support to the Palestinians for strategic and geographic considerations that are well known to all.

As a rule, differences in views among allies is not surprising. With an issue as complex and critical as the Arab-Israeli conflict the possibility of differences is always there. However, such differences should remain within the family and should never reach "divorce," for in such a case it is not only one party that suffers harm while the other escapes it but the whole house is threatened.

It is primarily for this reason that we did not want the differences to surface in the manner they have in the past 24 hours in the press and through world news agencies. We do not need to remind everyone that the happiest people with what has happened are those who want harm for both Syria and the PLO and who have striven for many years to undermine relations between the two sides.

On the other hand, we believe that there are matters that should be resolved by the Palestinians before they are assessed and examined by the other Arabs. Just as we call for the Palestinians' right to self-determination vis-a-vis Israel, we should also recognize the Palestinians' right to self-determination vis-a-vis the Arabs. We have always called for the independence of Palestinian action and an end to any form of tutelage over such action, particularly as the Palestinian leadership has the political awareness that enables it to confront many challenges that lie in its way.

Arab efforts should be confronted in the direction of supporting the Palestinian stand and not in the direction of liquidating it. These efforts should immediately be directed toward healing the rift before the differences exacerbate and lead to divorce with all its destructive consequences that will harm everyone.

We have had enough setbacks, shocks, fragmentations and liquidations.

CSO: 4400/28

# EXPORTS TO EXPAND TRADE, INDUSTRY IN SOUTHERN REGION UNDERWAY

Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 30 Aug 82 p 3

[Interview with 'Abdullah Nasir al-Ghassani, Director of the Office of Trade and Industry in Salalah, by 'Abdullah Sulayman: "Trade and Industry Encouraged in South; New Central Market in Salalah"; date and place not specified]

[Text] Oman won a great reputation for trade 1000 years ago, and Omani ships sailed most of the seas of the world. The pharoahs came to Dhofar for frankincense and gum arabic to embalm their dead, Abyssinians came to buy ivory and peacock feathers and the Canaanites brought stones from the Dhofar mountains to build King Solomon's temple.

Today, in the age of the blessed revolution, we are witnessing an all-encompassing trade movement.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry is one of the witnesses to this movement, and its first step in revitalizing this historical glory is to restore Oman's position in this sphere. Because of the south's importance and commercial renown, full attention has been given to this sphere, and the Office Of Trade and Industry has been created in Salalah to fulfill its mission of helping activate trade in the southern region.

## The Office's Activities:

We met with the director of the office, brother 'Abdullah Nasir al-Ghassani, to discuss the activities and functions of this office. He began the interview by saying, "Trade in Oman is free and does not depend on any specific person or persons. Instead, it is for any citizen who tries to earn a living and it is an honorable way to do so. For this reason, we are trying to offer services and facilities to any citizen who can work in this field."

[Question] What are the reasons for the increased prices of goods and agricultural products?

[Answer] Prices are subject to supply and demand in accordance with world market prices, for example: last year the price of a pound of sugar reached 21 riyals, and the price of a pound of rice from Thailand reached 10 riyals.

These prices began to fall in the middle of this year, with the price of a pound of rice at 8 riyals and that of a pound of sugar also at 8 riyals, showing that price increases here for basic foodstuffs are linked to world-wide price increases. The prices of agricultural products such as vegetables and fruits depend on two main things: first, local products offer imported products no competition, which gives imports the opportunity to set prices and second, the local authorities generously paid for stalls for citizens to use in the vegetable market and sell the produce from their fields. However, quite unfortunately, our citizens have rented these stalls on a monthly basis to Indians, enabling the Indians to control prices and raise them in order to pay to rent the stalls.

#### A New Market:

[Question] What are the solutions and alternatives to increased prices for goods and agricultural products?

[Answer] In accordance with H. M. the Sultan's decree establishing the General Organization for Agricultural Production in the Sultanate, this organization will buy all local agricultural produce and sell it to the citizens at prices lower than these excessive prices. The government has also begun to build a new central market in Salalah under the jurisdiction on H. E. the Minister of State and Governor of Dhofar. This market will be able to take in a large number of merchants, which may solve the problem of price increases for basic goods. The new market will also solve many problems and bring back the older merchants who have been kept from pursuing their trade during the current period, in order to compete with those who operate illegally.

[Question] Is there coordination between the office and the local authorities in matters such as supervision of the market and health inspections?

[Answer] H. E. the Minister of State and Governor of Dhofar issued regulation number 4/82 on 17 January 1982 stating that a committee should be formed from the members of the appropriate local authorities, to be headed by City Health Director Ahmad Suhayl Ajham. The task of this committee is to visit the markets to find out to what extent the merchants are abiding by the ordinances and laws, to inspect all foodstuffs to be sure that they are good and still usable and to confiscate, isolate and destroy those which are no longer fresh in order to keep them out of circulation to protect the health of the citizens. The committee has completed all the regulations which will be put in effect soon, God willing, to begin this task. A smaller committee will follow up on the inspections weekly and will submit reports to the committee members. If a seller violates the ordinances, a penalty will be imposed upon him as stipulated in the regulations. Furthermore, banks have begun to require producers to specify the beginning and ending dates of production and provide a statement to this effect as well as a guarantee of the quality of the goods before they will provide credit to import goods. The producers must also provide specifications of the goods to receive credit from the bank.

[Question] It has been observed that many citizens have trade permits. How many trade permits and licenses have been granted? Has this had a negative effect on trade?

### Preliminary Licenses:

[Answer] One thousand six hundred sixty-five trade permits and 200 preliminary licenses have been granted since the office began operations. Granting this number of trade permits has not had a significant negative effect on trade in the region. Instead, granting a citizen a trade permit gives him a certain sales clout and the opportunity to earn an honorable living, since the trade permit is given after precise steps are followed. The person awarding the trade permit must ask the recipient to provide proof that he has pursued this activity for at least 1 month, and the office will send an inspector to examine the shop and the goods on hand to confirm that there is a rental contract for the shop or that it is owned free and clear. A preliminary license is granted if the applicant's capital is no more than 2000 Omani riyals. If he has more than this, after he is given the preliminary license he is given a trade permit appropriate to the activity pursued at the shop. The above applies to individuals; the partners in firms must place a specified amount of money in a bank and furnish the number of the account in which the guaranteed amount is placed, along with a bank certificate proving that the money is in the bank in the name of the firm. There are many firms, including corporations, limited corporations, limited partnerships and private firms, which are outside the trade permit system.

[Question] What is the reason for errors in the copying of the names and addresses of shops?

[Answer] Whenever someone submits an application to obtain a trade permit and after legal measures are completed, he is authorized to print a sign for his shop with the business's name and number as they appear on the permit itself. After he receives the form, he sends it to the local authorities to be verified and for them to authorize him to print the sign. This permit is then given to a sign painter to make the desired sign. Unfortunately, the sign makers are from the Pakistani and Indian communities and do not know the Arabic language well, and thus such errors occur. During the inspection, the shop owner is asked to correct the error. If he does not comply, he is summoned to the office to correct these errors and print the sign exactly as the name appears on the trade permit. If he then does not comply with the ordinances, legal measures are taken against him.

### No Trade Stagnation:

[Question] Is it true that there is stagnation in trade in the southern region?

[Answer] Trade is not stagnant as is being said; rather, profits are being distributed differently from before because of an increase in the number of merchants who have entered the market. The sign that there is no such stagnation is the increase in imports--an increase of 5,228,480 Omani riyals in 1981. Indications are that there will be an increase this year since imports for the first half of the year have reached 30,716,763 Omani riyals.

Cement Project:

In conclusion, he said, "I have nothing to say about industry at this time, except that there is a project for a cement factory, which will be completed in the last part of 1983, God willing, and it is one of the important projects in the region. Furthermore, the government is backing citizens and giving industrial loans in order to encourage the citizens and because the government feels strongly that the industrial sector is important."

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